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<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US99/05773 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 17 March 1999 (17.03.99)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 60/078,388 18 March 1998 (18.03.98) US  <b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES LTD. [US/US]; 62 Pointe Rok, Worcester, MA 01604 (US).  <b>(72) Inventor; and</b> <b>(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only):</b> WEINERT, George, W. [US/US]; 62 Pointe Rok, Worcester, MA 01604 (US).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> DEGRANDI, Joseph, A. et al.; Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP, The Beveridge, DeGrandi, Weilacher & Young Intellectual Property Group, Suite 800, 1850 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i>
<b>(54) Title:</b> PROCESS FOR REDUCING PROTEIN ALLERGENS IN LATEX PRODUCTS  <b>(57) Abstract</b>  Described is a process for reducing the antigenicity of sap and products made from the sap of the <i>Hevea brasiliensis</i> plant and other rubber plants. The process involves contacting sap or a latex rubber product with a mono or dialdehyde, a semialdehyde or any chemical containing an aldehyde group, to cross-link antigenic proteins within the sap or the latex product. The cross-linked proteins no longer have the capability to cause an allergic reaction to persons coming into contact with the latex products made by the process of the invention. The cross-linking reaction between the proteins in the latex sap and the aldehyde can take place in the solution used to prepare the final product, or after the final latex product has been formed, or during various intermediate steps of the processes for forming the latex products.		

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